

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: STA PROBLEMS AND SSN MONITORING

REF: A) TOKYO 1996

B) MANILA 1684 (NOTAL)

C) MANILA 1683 (NOTAL)

1. ON FEB 8, JAPANESE EMBOFF (YAMAZAKI) SUBMITTED A
SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING US MONITORING PRACTICES IN US
PORTS. ACCORDING TO YAMAZAKI, INFORMATION WAS BEING SOUGHT
AS PART OF GOJ REEVALUATION OF PROGRAM AS RESULT OF DATA
FALSIFICATION SCANDAL REPORTED REF A. REFS B AND C REPORT
SIMILAR LIST OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED TO HOST COUNTRY AUTHOR-
ITIES BY JAPANESE EMBASSIES IN MANILA, MADRID AND LONDON.

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2. ON FEB 14 JAPANESE EMBOFFS DONOWAKI AND YAMAZAKI WERE

GIVEN THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED:

(1) Q. DOES THE US HAVE A SYSTEM OF MONITORING US PORTS VISITED BY SSN/NPW?

A. YES, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SURVEYS FOR RADIOACTIVITY ARE PERIODICALLY PERFORMED BY THE US NAVY IN HARBORS WHERE US NAVAL NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS ARE BUILT OR OVERHAULED AND WHERE THESE SHIPS ARE HOME PORTED OR VISIT

ON A RECURRING BASIS. INFORMATION ON US NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING FOR RADIOACTIVITY IS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BY THE NAVY IN A REPORT ENTITLED, "ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES FROM US NAVAL NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS AND THEIR SUPPORT FACILITIES". A COPY OF THE LATEST US NAVY REPORT (NT-73-1) ON THIS SUBJECT IS ATTACHED. FYI: COPY OF REPORT BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY. END FYI.

(2A) Q. IF SO, WHAT USG AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE?

A. THE US NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING. SAMPLES FROM EACH HARBOR MONITORED ARE ALSO CHECKED AT LEAST ANNUALLY BY A US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION LABORATORY. IN ADDITION, INDEPENDENT SURVEYS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN A NUMBER OF US HARBORS BY A LABORATORY OF THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY; RESULTS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT WITH US NAVY RESULTS.

Q. HOW LARGE IS THE PROGRAM AND IS ANY OF THE WORK DONE BY CONTRACT?

A. THIRTEEN HARBOR AREAS WERE MONITORED IN THE UNITED STATES DURING 1972; APPROXIMATELY 300 HARBOR WATER SAMPLES AND 3000 HARBOR SEDIMENT SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED AND ANALYZED IN THAT YEAR. THE MONITORING IS CONDUCTED BY THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FACILITIES LISTED IN TABLE 4 OF THE US NAVY REPORT (NT-73-1); NONE OF THIS MONITORING IS SUBCONTRACTED TO OUTSIDE COMMERCIAL MONITORING ORGANIZATIONS.

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(2B) Q. IS AIR OR WATER MONITORING PERFORMED WITH A GM (GEIGER-MUELLER TUBE) OR SCINTILLATION COUNTER?

A. THE US NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM RELIES ON ANALYZING HARBOR WATER AND SEDIMENT SAMPLES SINCE THEY ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA WHICH WOULD BE MOST AFFECTED. HARBOR WATER SAMPLES ARE ANALYZED FOR GROSS

GAMMA RADIOACTIVITY AND FOR COBALT 60 CONTENT USING A SCINTILLATION DETECTOR AND A MULTI-CHANNEL ANALYZER.

US NAVAL NUCLEAR REACTORS ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT DISCHARGES OF RADIOACTIVITY. IF RELEASES OF RADIOACTIVITY FROM THE REACTOR WERE TO OCCUR, THEY WOULD BE PRIMARILY IN WATER. THE US NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM HAS NOT EMPLOYED AIR MONITORING

SINCE IT IS NOT A PERTINENT INDICATOR OF POTENTIAL US NAVAL NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP CONTAMINATION. IN ADDITION, SUCH MONITORING IS NOT CONSIDERED RELIABLE SINCE THE RADIATION DETECTION EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT TO SPURIOUS INTERFERENCE FROM SOURCES SUCH AS RADAR, WELDING, X-RAY EQUIPMENT, ETC., WHICH ARE UNRELATED TO NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIP OPERATION.

(2C) Q. IS MONITORING DONE ON A REGULAR OR PERIODIC BASIS? HOW OFTEN?

A. US NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED IN EACH HARBOR FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

(2D & 2E) Q. WHAT TYPES OF RADIOACTIVITY ARE MEASURED? WHAT METHODS OF ANALYSIS ARE EMPLOYED? RADIOCHEMISTRY? NAI DETECTOR WITH PULSE HEIGHT ANALYZER?

A. HARBOR WATER AND SEDIMENT SAMPLES ARE ANALYZED FOR GROSS GAMMA RADIOACTIVITY AND COBALT 60 USING A SODIUM IODIDE (NAI) SCINTILLATION DETECTOR AND A MULTI-CHANNEL ANALYZER.

(2F) Q. WHAT ARE THE LIMITS OF MONITORING, IE.,
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THE SMALLEST TRACES?

A. THE PROCEDURES FOR ANALYSIS OF HARBOR WATER WERE SELECTED TO DETECT COBALT 60 IF ITS CONCENTRATION EXCEEDS ONE TIMES TEN TO THE NEGATIVE SEVEN MICROCURIES PER MILLILITER, WHICH IS THREE HUNDRED TIMES LOWER THAN THE APPLICABLE LIMITS SET BY REGULATORY AGENCIES SUCH AS THE US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION OR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION. THE METHOD OF ANALYSIS OF SEDIMENT HAS A SENSITIVITY WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 0.1 PICOCURIES PER GRAM OF WET SEDIMENT.

(3)
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